



Drayton Parish Council

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DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting
Held on Monday 13th April 2015 at 7:00pm
At the Caudwell Day Centre, Gravel Lane, Drayton, OX14 4HF



Present: Richard Williams (Chairman); Laurence Zipson (Vice Chairperson); Naomi Broomfield; Richard Webber; Patricia Athawes; Mark Jesson.

Not Present: Graham Webb; Janet Manning; Stuart Davenport.

In attendance: David Perrow (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer); Christopher Price (Deputy Parish Clerk and Meeting Administrator).

Parishioners: Daniel Scharf; Andrew Bax; Roxy Elford; Keith Clough; Jane McWhirter; Barry Winter; Dave Ree; Camilla King; Pam Bowker; Rebecca Peters; Tim Atkins; Christine West; Colin West; Jenifer Pooley; Derek Pooley; Mark Knight; Peter Coville.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies had been received from Graham Webb; Janet Manning; Stuart Davenport and were **noted**.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting of 7th April 2014.

The Minutes were agreed and were signed by the Chairman, Richard Williams with 1 amendment: Year changed from 2013 to 2014.

Proposed: Mark Jesson

Seconded: Patricia Athawes

Resolved: Unanimously

3. Report from Parish Council Chairman Richard Williams (Chairman).

As Parish Councils run for four years, and the last Parish Council elections were in May 2011, this is the last meeting of the current Parish Council, new elections being due next month, on 7th May. I understand that there are a number of nominations from prospective new councillors and therefore, in more ways than one, we are looking forward to a new chapter in the life of Drayton Parish Council. If the total number of nominations exceeds 11 (the number of councillors we are allocated) then a competitive election must take place, in which case none of us now present can guarantee we will be around for the next electoral term! However, it would clearly be right at this time to express my thanks to every councillor who has served over the past year, and in particular to thank those who, for various reasons, will be standing down in May.

So, firstly, my thanks to Janet Manning, Laurence Zipson, and Naomi Broomfield. Janet has put in a great deal of work on the Neighbourhood Plan. She wrote the Drayton Design Guide and gave a well-received presentation on it to an English Heritage seminar at Oxford University last year. Laurence was responsible for the installation of the defibrillator at the Village Hall and has acted as Webmaster for the Drayton village website, writing up the listings and generally keeping everything up to date. Naomi nobly took on the task of chairing the Finance Committee and has acted as liaison between the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee, Drayton School and various youth groups, amongst other responsibilities. The efforts of all three will be much missed. I'd like to thank Steve Sadler, our Village Caretaker, who, despite severe problems with a bad back that restricted his activities for several months, nevertheless has managed to keep the village spruce and tidy, emptying bins, clearing up litter, painting and varnishing woodwork, strimming undergrowth, maintaining the Lockway playground, and sorting out many other tasks. Most recently, Steve has repainted and resurfaced the village noticeboards, and the Village Green looks brighter and better cared-for as a result.

Richard Webber deserves a special mention for his ability to wear not just one hat or even two, but three separate hats as our parish councillor, district councillor and county councillor. This marks Richard out as either exceptionally hard-working, or a glutton for punishment, or both. On matters to do with our Neighbourhood Plan, Richard has been the indispensable link between Drayton residents, the Drayton 2020 Steering Group, the planners at the Vale, and the Highways and Transport departments (in

particular) at County, and in countless meetings, he has put his considerable powers of persuasion and diplomacy to work on our behalf.

Most heartfelt thanks of all must go to David Perrow, our Parish Clerk, who pulled together all the many disparate strands of the Neighbourhood Plan as a Project Manager extraordinaire, and without whom we almost certainly would not have kept the show on track. David has been pro-active throughout, researching, recording and organising, and, as appropriate, supporting, reminding and cajoling us into delivering what was required. Finally, thanks to Chris Price, who was appointed as Deputy Clerk in an inspired move by my predecessor as Chairman, Daniel Scharf. Chris has taken on many of the Parish Clerk's more routine duties in order to free up David to spend more time on Drayton 2020. Many of these tasks are exacting though not especially rewarding - such as keeping the minutes of meetings and checking the progress of planning applications - but they have to be done, and we are grateful to Chris for doing them. Like all of us, he is learning as he goes along, and between him and David, I doubt if the administration of Drayton Parish Council has ever been better run.

I've mentioned the Neighbourhood Plan a couple of times already, and of course it has dominated the year just gone, as it did the two years before that. Everyone will know by now the result of the Referendum. We could have wished for a better turn-out – ours was slightly above the national average at 33.5%, but there is no doubting the support of those who did vote- the Yesses received 90.8% of the total votes cast. Clearly, it is an achievement to have got this far, and the result both justifies and vindicates the hard work of a large number of Drayton residents. It was right to celebrate for a short time, but we should not dwell on the victory. Much like the football manager who, having won a game, immediately turns to planning for the next game, we now have to get back to work. In truth, we have barely started on what needs to be done. We now embark on the Implementation phase of the Plan, which means bringing to fruition a series of projects which we hope will collectively improve Drayton's social and recreational facilities in ways that were never possible before, due to a lack of land and resources. The Neighbourhood Plan is not just about the housing, although this is inevitably the most high-profile and controversial element of it. It is about making Drayton a better place to live.

I know that some residents would prefer to keep things the way they are. They have (entirely legitimate) concerns about the traffic that new housing will bring, and fear that the village will change its character forever. These fears are understandable. Change is often painful and as well as predictable outcomes, it frequently brings with it unforeseen and unwelcome consequences. And yet, change is also an opportunity, and nothing ever stays the same indefinitely. It's good sometimes to remember that every existing house in Drayton stands on land that was once an open field, or a space created out of woodland. So, I think we have to be positive, and recognise that new housing is much needed, and that although the bulk of it should probably be built on brownfield sites, it cannot all be. Apart from anything else, not everyone needs or wants to live in cities and towns.

The Drayton 2020 Steering Group is effectively wound up as it has fulfilled its terms of reference. However, we are considering forming an Implementation Group as a full committee of the new Parish Council, and setting up sub-committees to research and progress such projects as the refurbishment of the Village Hall, the establishment of a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and skate park, and so on. Exactly how a restructured Parish Council might work is a matter for future discussion and debate, but I do believe this is a good time to be involved in local democracy in Drayton and that exciting times lie ahead.

4. Reports from Parish Council Committees and Working Groups.

(a) Finance and Personnel Committee Naomi Broomfield (Chairperson).

Comparison: 2013-14 Outturn with 2014-15 & 2015-16 budgets

Income (VAT excluded)	2013-14 Outturn	2014-15 budget	2015-16 budget
Precept	£40,000.00	£40,000.00	£40,000.00
VWHDC & Other Grants and Donations	£3,164.23	£1,950.00	£1,410.00
Neighbourhood Plan Grants	£16,300.00	£700.00	0
Allotments	£502.85	£500.00	£570.00
Burial Ground/Memorials	£1190.00	£1,500.00	£1,750.00
Interest	£193.93	£50.00	£70.00
Other Income	£68.90	£1,500.00	0
VAT Refund	£2,636.22		
TOTAL INCOME	£64,056.13	£46,200.00	£43,800.00
Earmark from Reserves		£18,000.00	£18,000.00
Total		£64,200.00	£61,800.00
Expenditure (VAT reclaims excluded)			
Administration	£10,575.57	£12,000.00	£12,750.00
Chairman's Expenses		£50.00	£50.00
Grants and Donations S19	£6,414.00	£12,000.00	£12,000.00
S137	£950.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
S142	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Burial Ground/Allotments	£1,684.31	£2,250.00	£2,250.00
Play/Recreation	£1,759.60	£2,350.00	£2,350.00
Public Amenities/Open Spaces	£4,668.52	£5,900.00	£5,900.00
Press & Public Relations	£273.80	£500.00	£250.00
ROW	£748.67	£1,230.00	£1,200.00
Miscellaneous	£1019.00	£500.00	£450.00
Drayton2020 Administration	£14,765.31	£5,200.00	£2,600.00
Drayton2020/Developers Exhibition		£1,500.00	0
Drayton2020 Feasibility/Projects		£4,500.00	£20,000.00
Lockway Playground Project		£14,000.00	
VAT Paid	£1,064.82		
TOTAL	£44,923.60	£63,980.00	£61,800.00

Grants 2014-2015

DAMASCUS Youth Project (s19)	£3,000.00
Drayton Village Hall (s19)	£155.03
Drayton Football Club (s19)	£474.00
South & Vale CAB (s142)	£1,000.00
Abingdon Bridge Youth Centre (s137)	£550.00
Homestart Southern Oxfordshire (s137)	£200.00
South & Vale Carers (s137)	£375.00
Total Grants	£5,754.03

DRAYTON (ABINGDON) PARISH COUNCIL

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT YEAR TO 31/03/2014

2012/2013		2013/2014
£40,000.00	Precept	£40,000.00
£495.45	Allotment Rents	£502.85
£3,075.00	Burial Ground/Memorials Income	£1,190.00
£205.85	Bank Interest	£193.93
£0.00	Borrowings	£0.00
£0.00	Grants & Donations	£3,164.23
£0.00	D2020 NDP Grants	£16,300.00
£0.00	Public Amenities/Open Spaces	£0.00
£106.31	Other income	£68.90
£1,177.57	VAT refund	£2,636.22
£45,060.18	TOTAL	£64,056.13

PAYMENTS		
£5,914.65	Staff Costs	£6,841.35
£0.00	Loan Interest	£0.00
£4,059.25	Other admin. costs	£2,940.33
£782.66	Insurance	£793.89
£8,694.42	Grants	£8,364.00
£5,888.22	Grants Section 19	£6,414.00
£1,806.20	Grants Section 137	£950.00
£1,000.00	Grants Section 142	£1,000.00
£1,831.68	Burial Grounds/Allotments	£1,684.31
£1,909.19	Play/Recreation Gds	£1,759.60
£6,381.42	Public Amenities/Open Spaces	£4,668.52
£626.08	Rights of Way/Conservation	£748.67
£0.00	Press & Public Relations	£273.80
£1,172.00	Miscellaneous costs	£1,019.00
£4,085.48	Drayton2020	£14,765.31
£1,684.29	VAT paid	£1,064.82
£37,141.12	TOTAL	£44,923.60

£21,488.69	Bal b/f	£29,407.75
£45,060.18	Add total receipts	£64,056.13
£66,548.87		£93,463.88
£37,141.12	Less total payments	£44,923.60
£29,407.75	Balance c/f 31st March	£48,540.28

BALANCES REPRESENTED BY:

£9,965.73	Current Account	£29,567.14
£19,382.02	NS&I Account	£19,527.39
£29,347.75		£49,094.53
£20.00	Less unrepresented cheques	£554.25
£80.00	Plus unrepresented credit	£0.00
£29,407.75		£48,540.28

(b) Planning Committee Richard Williams (Chairman).

Planning statistics for 2014-2015: Drayton Parish Council received 43 planning applications, 7 more than last year. Of these the Parish Council fully approved of 10 and objected to 5, with a response to the remainder where the Parish Council set out concerns it had about them and/or suggested conditions or amendments that should be made. Of these 43 applications, 1 was withdrawn, 10 are still pending a decision by the Vale of White Horse District Council. The VWHDC permitted 31 and refused 1 application.

(c) Rights of Way and Conservation Working Group Graham Webb (Chairman).

Graham Webb was unable to attend the meeting.

We have had occasional problems with fallen trees and branches blocking paths. These have generally been dealt with efficiently by Steve Sadler, the Caretaker, or by Oxfordshire County Council. Early advice of this is always appreciated so that action can be taken.

There have been extensive discussions about the verge on the lane from Sutton Wick to the NW corner of the Millennium Green. This was eventually cleared for planting of wildflower seeds, and it was decided to look for a way to protect this from parked cars. The Council looked at boulders (to match those elsewhere) but it was decided that low timber posts might be a better solution.

The condition of some rights of way needs a review. Those that are heavily used as bridleways are just that, but some that are predominantly footpaths may need some remediation or repairs, and a survey will take place in May/June to evaluate the extent of this.

The actions of Steve Sadler and Jennifer Pooley (Footpath Warden) have, as usual, been so valuable and we thank them for their interest and commitment.

Lastly, we would repeat our seasonal request that, if your property adjoins a footpath, please trim back any overhanging branches or shrubs that might be obstructing it. An early clipping is far easier than the prospect of major tree surgery later in the year!!

(d) Leisure and General Purposes Working Group Richard Williams (Chairman).

There is not much to report this year as most of the activities under this heading were subsumed into discussions about the Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman, Clerk and Deputy Clerk met with a representative of Wicksteed at the Lockway playground last October with a view to progressing Phase 2 of the playground refurbishment. Three years ago, Wicksteed were responsible for Phase 1 of the project and they also installed most of the original equipment when the playground was first built. A proposal was duly received from the company and considered, but it was decided to consult more widely and to involve the new 'Families in Drayton' Facebook group, which has developed many useful contacts and maintains an ongoing blog on its site. Better provision for children with disabilities is one of the issues that has emerged from initial contact with the group, and it will be addressed not just in relation to the Lockway playground, but in deciding how to equip new play sites for the housing developments in the Neighbourhood Plan. Companies other than Wicksteed will also be invited to tender for the refurbishment work. This project could be adopted by one of the Implementation sub-committees reporting back to the new Parish Council.

(e) Press and Public Relations Working Group Laurence Zipson (Chairman).

The main project undertaken in the last year 12 month was the Village Defibrillator. This project was handled by the Chairman of this working group which included applying for funding, arranging the installation, and working with the Heartbeat Trust to promote and deliver the opening event which included two briefing sessions attended by approximately 50 people in the Village Hall back on the 27th of June 2014. The Group also continues to work closely with the Drayton Community Trust to ensure the smooth running of the village website and updates the site with news relevant for the village.

5. Parish Accounts. The final accounts for the Parish were available for public inspection.

(a) Parish Council.

(b) DAMASCUS Youth Project.

(c) Drayton Village Hall.

(d) Caudwell Day Centre.

6. Reports from Drayton Community Organisations:

(a) Drayton2020 Neighbourhood Development Plan Andrew Bax (Chairman).

When the Parish Assembly last met much of the groundwork for Drayton's Neighbourhood Development Plan had already been done and the Plan itself was already taking shape. Since then our fortnightly public meetings continued and considerable work was done in drafting the document which, with its associated Sustainability Appraisal and various plans, eventually ran to some 250 pages. In this report I am confining myself to a very brief summary because its detail has been extensively covered by the Parish Council, the Drayton Chronicle and the village website.

There was a two-day exhibition and consultation event in Drayton Hall at the end of June, attended by over 250 residents. At this we presented some of the community benefits we expect to achieve as a result of the Plan and the developers of the three sites it identifies had the opportunity to show their initial plans and answer questions. The revised Plan was then submitted to the Vale of White Horse District Council for a further six-week consultation which was completed at the end of October.

After further amendment the final stage was for the Plan to be considered by an Independent Planning Examiner, followed by a Public Hearing in Drayton Hall on 12 December. The outcome was that we were required to rephrase and clarify a few points but that, otherwise, it was considered complete and suitable for its submission to a referendum of all Drayton residents on the electoral register.

The referendum asked the question 'Should the Vale of White Horse District Council use the Drayton Neighbourhood Development Plan when determining planning applications in the Drayton parish area?' and was held in Drayton Hall on 12 March this year. 634 votes approved the Plan, 64 opposed it and there were two spoiled votes. This conclusive result now means that, after 2.5 years work by a great many people, involving some 7000 recorded man-hours, the objectives of Drayton 2020 have been realised.

This was described in the April issue of the Drayton Chronicle as 'A Great Community Achievement'. Responsibility now passes to the Parish Council to ensure that the new housing complies with what the Plan defines and that the resulting community benefits are forthcoming. In support of this Drayton 2020 has requested that an Implementation group be established by the Parish Council. Its role is still undefined but will include the search for grants and other sources of funding to supplement the Section 106 payments due to the parish from the new housing.

By 2020 I believe Drayton will be a changed but even more attractive village for current residents and future generations.

(b) DAMASCUS Youth Project Roxy Elford (Youth and Community Work Area Manager).

Roxy thanked the Parish Council for its support and explained the DAMASCUS acronym: 'Drayton, Appleford, Milton, Sutton Courtenay and Steventon'. Roxy spoke about some of the work and activities that DAMASCUS do: Work in schools, drug and alcohol, workshops, 1 to 1 work with youngsters, drop-in, big sister group, sports club, LEAP and street work. www.ycat.org.uk

(c) Caudwell Day Centre Barry Winter (Trustee).

Barry explained that the building is a registered charity with two trustees: Barry Winter and Paul Caudwell and is run by volunteers. The building provides recreational and health care facilities for the elderly, day clubs, meals, art, whist club and podiatrists clinic.

(f) St Peters Church Rebecca Peters (Minister).

Rebecca reported on the installation of CCTV and that the Church is now open during the day and that priceless piece of 14th century alabaster reredos, part of six in a series, which was stolen, has been

recovered by the police. Activities include: pebbles, messy church, Tuesday connections, coffee mornings and bell ringing.

(g) Almshouses Camilla King (Trustee).

Camilla reported on full occupancy of the alms-houses and the recent work that has been done upgrading them. The Drayton almshouses are 6 bungalows at 41 to 51 High Street set up for senior citizens (aged 60+) of limited means. They are suitable for single people or a couple. Residents need to be able to live independently as there is no warden but the trustees all live locally and are on call at any time. Each almshouse comprises of a double bedroom, sitting room with fitted kitchen including cooker, bathroom with shower (due for upgrading 2015-16), large storeroom plumbed for washing machine, gas central heating and communal garden.

(h) Drayton Community Trust Andrew Bax (Trustee).

Drayton Community Trust is a registered charity whose purpose is to support major community enhancements in the village, to be the organ through which the Drayton Chronicle is published and funded through its lottery, and provide a similar function for the village website. For the last 2.5 years it has been in partnership with the Parish Council in developing the Neighbourhood Development Plan through Drayton 2020. I have reported on Drayton 2020 separately.

Our AGM will be held here on Tuesday 9 June and everyone is welcome to attend. The main purpose of the meeting will be to consider an upgraded constitution and to welcome one or two new trustees. There will also be the opportunity to discuss future projects in which the Trust may become involved.

(i) The Abingdon Centre for a Caring, Enlightened and Sustainable Society (ACCESS)

Peter Coville (Coordinator).

ACCESS is a place where people can meet to reflect together on the major challenges facing society. In our supposed democracy, where are the spaces for citizens to discuss the critical problems facing society? The aim of ACCESS is to provide such a space! We equip ordinary citizens with the knowledge and confidence to engage in helping bring about a more caring, enlightened and sustainable society. We organise discussions on a wide range of topics, encourage grassroots citizen research, and aim to stimulate debate in the wider society. We are an independent educational charity dedicated to organising discussions and stimulating debate about the critical issues facing society, and how we can move towards a more caring, enlightened and sustainable society. We are based near Abingdon in Oxfordshire, inspired by the Occupy protests of 2011-12, and founded in 2014 by Dr Chris Fursdon-Davis, a retired NHS neurologist. We are governed by a board of trustees and managed by our Coordinator, Peter Coville. We are in the process of applying for registered charity status. Events: Democracy: can we make it work?, Our NHS, Climate change: our responsibility, Inequality: can we afford it?, Housing workshop.

(j) Allotments Tim Atkins (Warden).

Rents have been collected and all plots are taken and there is 1 person on the waiting list though some plots are not attended to. An allotment holder has cut the boundary hedge, it was **noted** that allotment holders are not permitted to cut the boundary hedges. It was also **noted** that FP11 (Footpath from Church Lane to the Allotments) is slippery, steep, very narrow and potentially dangerous.

(k) Millennium Green Trust Jane McWhirter (Chairperson).

New committee set up in February 2015, to maintain and improve the village Millennium Green. Committee: Jane McWhirter (Chairperson), Keith Clough (Vice Chairman), Victoria Griffiths (Treasurer), Therese Webster (Secretary), Janet Woolley, Gwen Price, Jenny Pooley, Juile Teates, Richard Seamark, Tim Asker, Debbie Clarke. We are currently in the process of changing bank accounts, full accounts will be available for our AGM which will be held on June 9th jointly with the Drayton2020 committee. Immediate plans: Grass cutting, clear up day on 4th May, litter picking and friends of the green. Long term plans: footpaths, friends of the green, environment, trees and pond.

(I) Primary School Mark Knight (Headmaster).

Mark introduced himself as the new headmaster of the primary school.

7. Reports from the County and District Councillor for the Parish

Richard Webber (Councillor, County and District).

VWHDC have finally managed to get the draft Local Plan to the Inspectorate. There will be a hearing in June or July followed by a report before the end of the year. The Local Plan contains plenty of grim news for most of the large villages in the District with a proposed increase of 20,500 houses between now and 2031.

While the plan has been in preparation, there has been a planning free for all led by developers and landowners. Sutton Courtenay is the worst affected with a proposed 80% increase in housing, a million sq ft warehouse, expanding Milton Park, the FCC recycling and landfill - not to mention the redevelopment of Didcot A and the rapid expansion of Didcot itself.

Drayton, by contrast, has been a haven of peace. This is entirely due to the hard work of all those involved in the Neighbourhood Plan together with the guidance and hard work of our outstanding Clerk, David Perrow. As a result, in the next few years Drayton will have 255 extra houses - well built, well-designed, well laid out together with sports facilities, an improved Village Hall, a new Pre-school, a new heart to the village with its own green, and a state of the art road layout - safe, calming, attractive and with a village (rather than a suburban) feel.

Drayton will, I believe be transformed from the sort of place people forget as they drive through, on their way to somewhere else, to an example of what local effort and Localism can achieve. By gum, Localism needs a shot in the arm and I am proud to be part of the first large village in the Vale to deliver it.

OCC. Not such good news here, I am afraid. Whilst District Councils in which many houses have been built have seen their finances transformed, County Councils' finances have been cut to the bone. With a protected Education budget and reducing income we have had to face reductions in transport to school funding, increasingly poor road maintenance and severely stretched social services. I worry at the impact any future cuts in these areas will have.

On a brighter note, thanks to financial help of OCC, the PCs of Drayton and Milton, and Milton Park itself, a new 40mph zone between Drayton and Milton has been instituted. There have been three fatalities in five years on that stretch of road. If average speeds reduce by a few miles an hour and a life is saved, that seems to me to be worth it. I encourage everyone who uses the road to drive at no more than 40mph. If you find yourself holding up a driver behind you, you are doing us all a public service. Drayton is better of than most villages with a half hour bus service to Didcot, Abingdon and Oxford thanks to the addition of the X1 service. After some teething troubles and early morning hold-ups, the new service seems to have settled down to te benefit of all Drayton residents, particularly the elderly.

8. To Consider any other Matters Raised by Persons Present at the Meeting or Previously Notified to the Clerk. Some 17 members of the public were present. 1 members of the public spoke.

Grants. Daniel Scharf spoke about the 'Drayton Youth Centre Charity' and reported that it is finding it difficult to attract grant applications.

9. Chairman's Closing Remarks (Richard Williams).

Richard thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, which closed at 8:08pm.

Signed:

Date: TBC April 2016

Name:

Role: Chairman, Drayton Parish Council